

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 25, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 5, and 15-19 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 20-26 have been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 4-26 are pending.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-2 and 4-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Stille et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0128028). The Office Action took the position that Stille discloses all the aspects of independent claims 1, 5, 15, and 16. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claim 1, upon which claims 2, 4, and 23 are dependent, recites a method, including maintaining partner information about predefined partner networks, the partner information indicating that network operators share a serving network node, and selecting a gateway network node for a mobile station served by the serving network node on the basis of the partner information. The selecting of the gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information includes checking on the

basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of a home network, and selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

Independent claim 5, upon which claims 6-14 and 24 are dependent, recites a system, including at least one mobile station, a subscriber register configured to maintain subscriber information of the mobile station, and at least two networks to which the mobile station connects when the mobile station is within the area of the network, one of the networks being a home network of the mobile station, the networks including at least one gateway network node to interact between packet switched mobile networks and external data networks. The system includes at least one serving network node configured to serve the mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node, wherein the system is configured to maintain partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of the home network, the home network sharing at least one serving network node with each of the predefined partner networks. The system is further configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network, and select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

Independent claim 15, upon which claim 25 is dependent, recites an apparatus, including a first routine configured to maintain partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, a partner network and a home network

sharing at least one serving network node. The serving network node is configured to serve a mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node. The apparatus also includes a second routine configured to check the partner information of the mobile station, a third routine configured to indicate, on the basis of the partner information, the gateway network node, to which the mobile station is to be connected, to the serving network node serving the mobile station, and a checking unit configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network. The apparatus also includes an indicator configured to indicate the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

Independent claim 16, upon which claims 17-18 and 26 are dependent, recites an apparatus, including a first routine configured to check partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, the partner network and a home network sharing the apparatus, a second routine configured to select a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information, and a checking unit configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network. The apparatus also includes a selector configured to select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network .

Independent claim 19 recites an apparatus, including partner information checking means for checking partner information about networks that are predefined partner

networks of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing the apparatus, selecting means for selecting a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information, and checking means for checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network,

predefined partner network selecting means for selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

Independent claim 20 recites an apparatus, including maintaining means for maintaining partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing at least one serving network node, wherein the serving network node is configured to serve a mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node. The apparatus also includes partner information checking means for checking the partner information of the mobile station, gateway network node indicating means for indicating, on the basis of the partner information, the gateway network node, to which the mobile station is to be connected, to the serving network node serving the mobile station, and checking means for checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network. The apparatus further includes predefined partner network indicating means for indicating the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

Independent claim 21 recites a method, including checking partner information

about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing the apparatus, selecting a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information, and checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network. The method further includes selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

Independent claim 22 recites a method, including maintaining partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing at least one serving network node, wherein the serving network node is configured to serve a mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node, and checking the partner information of the mobile station. The method includes indicating, on the basis of the partner information, the gateway network node, to which the mobile station is to be connected, to the serving network node serving the mobile station, checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network, and indicating the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

As will be discussed below, Stille fails to disclose or suggest the elements of any of the presently pending claims.

Stille generally describes a shared radio network 6. See paragraph [0019]. A mobile terminal (MT) 2 contacts the shared radio network 6 which is owned by operators

of which one operator is the one that the MT 2 is subscribed to. There one Node-B 1 is contacted, said Node-B 1 is connected to an RNC (Radio Network controller) 7. Stille describes two MT's 4 and 5, which are subscribed to operator X and operator Y, respectively. Operator X has an agreement with operator A, and operator Y has an agreement with operator B. According to Stille, MT 4 establishes a PDP context with the GGSN in the network of operator A, and MT 5 establishes a PDP context with the GGSN in the network of operator B. (See paragraph 0031)

According to Stille, one way to decrease the cost of the UMTS introduction is for two or more 3G operators to establish a shared 3G radio network. Some network elements are located in the home network of respective operator. Example of network elements in the home network is GGSN (Gateway GPRS Support Node) and HLR (Home Location Register). The GGSN is a gateway node that terminates specific protocols, and the HLR is a large data base containing information about all subscribers. The shared network must be able to pass outgoing packet sessions via the correct home network. See paragraph [0020].

Clearly, the description of Stille fails to teach or suggest that, based on partner information, if the mobile station is located in a predefined partner network of the home network of the mobile station, the GGSN to be selected for the mobile station is the GGSN of the home network of the mobile station. Specifically, Stille fails to teach or suggest, at least, “wherein the selecting of the gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information comprises checking **on the basis of the**

partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of a home network; and **selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network,**” as recited in independent claim 1. (Emphasis added) Rather, in Stille, the GGSN **of the visited network (AB)** is selected. (Emphasis added)

Stille appears to disclose that if MT2 is subscribed to an operator that is one of the owners of the shared network, the SGSN accesses to information about which operator and MT2 is subscribed to and which home network MT2 shall use. See paragraph 0027. However, in this instance, the operator has to be one of the owners of the shared network.

Stille merely provides a solution where two or more operators may establish a shared 3G network in order to save costs. See paragraph 0020. In contrast, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, a mobile station may be connected to its home GGSN even when roaming, for instance, in a foreign country. Stille fails to teach or suggest, at least, “checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of a home network,” as recited in independent claim 1.

In paragraphs [0023]-[0026], Stille describes three scenarios regarding how the SGSN 9 acquires an APN 12, 13. Firstly, if the MT 2 does not provide any APN information to the SGSN 9, the SGSN 9 either chooses an NI from the subscription of the MT 2 or chooses a default NI. After that, an OI is added, making the APN 12, 13 complete. Secondly, if the MT2 provides an NI to the SGSN 9, the NI is verified for the

user in question that has been identified previously via the IMSI. After that, if correctly verified, an OI is added thus making the APN 12, 13 complete. Thirdly, if the MT2 provides both an NI and an OI to the SGSN 9, the NI and OI are verified for the user in question that has been identified previously via the IMSI. If correctly verified, the APN 12, 13 is complete. However, none of the scenarios of Stille teaches or suggests the checking and selecting steps recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, Stille fails to anticipate all the features recited in independent claim 1.

Because independent claims 5, 15, 16, and 19-22 include similar claim features as those recited in independent claim 1, although of different scope, and because the Office Action refers to similar portions of the cited references to reject independent claims 5, 15-16, and 19, the arguments presented above supporting the patentability of independent claim 1 are incorporated herein to support the patentability of independent claims 5, 15, 16, and 19-22.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 5, 15, 16, and 19-22 and related dependent claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention recites subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. Applicant further submits that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unobvious to a person of skill in the art. Applicant therefore

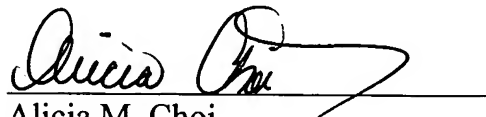
respectfully requests that each of claims 1-2 and 4-26 be found allowable and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time.

Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Additional Claim Fee Transmittal
Check No. 18856